

# To His Excellency, The President:

## New Jersey Appeals to You and to the Conscience of the Nation!

¶ Proudly did our commonwealth give her most gifted son to the nation. The long line of remedial and constructive legislation sponsored by him in New Jersey convinced those who followed his career as Governor that, remarkable as it was, it but dimly foreshadowed the higher and greater service that it would be given to him to render the people as President of the United States.

¶ This conviction saw its golden fruition when he expressed in language truly characteristic with clarity and precision the principles that underlay our entrance into the World War.

¶ These you summarized in that masterful address delivered before the Congress, on April 6th, 1917, the day on which war was formally declared.

"... but the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations. . . ."

¶ Again you declared, on July 4th, 1918, at the tomb of Washington—the most hallowed spot in America—having selected the diplomatic representatives of foreign nations accredited to the United States as your auditors:

"The settlement of every question, whether of territory, of sovereignty, of economic arrangement, or political relationship (must be) upon the basis of the free acceptance of that settlement by the people immediately concerned and not upon the basis of the material, interest, or advantage of any other nation or people which may desire a different settlement for the sake of its own exterior influence or mastery."

¶ Mr. President, your words reawakened the spirit of liberty throughout the world. Small nations hailed you as their savior. You were loved as was no other man of your time. Other leaders had betrayed their confidence; your words had the ring of sincerity! Ireland believed you. You spoke for a people that really loved liberty—whose traditional policy it was to have ever cast the weight of their influence upon the side of free institutions.

¶ Your State, in common with her sister States throughout the Union, has spoken—

¶ Governor Edwards, your honored successor, in officially receiving Eamon de Valera, President of the Irish Republic, expressed on behalf of the people of New Jersey his earnest hope of the early recognition of the Republic of Ireland.

¶ The Assembly of the State of New Jersey, on February 24, 1920, passed the following resolution:

Whereas The United States of America entered the Great War, which has been fought to a successful culmination, to establish the American principle as enunciated by the founders of this Republic "that all just powers of government are derived from the consent of the governed;" and

Whereas in accordance with this principle the people of Ireland, in December, 1918, by a vote of approximately three to one, decided to live under a Republican form of government; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, in consonance with this principle, request the Government of the United States to acknowledge the independence of the Irish Republic.

¶ This resolution was passed on July 1st, 1919, by the governing body of the City of Jersey City:

Resolved, That the Board of Commissioners of the City of Jersey City believes that the principle of self-determination so often and so forcibly proclaimed in the noble declaration of President Wil-

son as to the objects of the United States in the war that has just closed, should be applied to Ireland and that the time has come to recognize the Republic proclaimed by her elected Representatives.

¶ Resolutions similar in character were passed by the governing bodies of Newark and Hoboken on August 14, 1919, and July 8, 1919, respectively.

¶ The State Federation of Labor which, as you are aware, embraces a membership of thousands of our fellow citizens, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, By the Forty-second Annual Convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, on Tuesday, October 5, 1920, that we reaffirm our request to the Government of the United States for the recognition of the Irish Republic, and respectfully suggest that the military forces of England in the Republic of Ireland be withdrawn from that country.

At a meeting in Washington last night under the auspices of the American Commission on Irish Independence of New Jersey, a Protestant minister, a Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic priest, citizens of your home State, pleaded for the redemption of our nation's honor through the recognition of the Republic of Ireland.

"As Americans devoted with all our hearts to the great principles of the fathers of our Republic that 'all men are born free and equal,' we can only honor ourselves by a generous and whole-hearted sympathy with the laudable and in-born desire of our Irish brothers to come into their God-given heritage.

REV. H. J. SWEENEY,

Rector Grace P. E. Church, Elizabeth, N. J.

"The question of Irish Freedom is more properly a question of American honor. We pledged ourselves to the cause of self-determination for small, for subject nations. We held out to the hundreds of thousands of our boys the ideal to help bring to blessed fruition that promise, that pledge. We entered into a solemn compact with our boys; they sealed that contract with their blood. We cannot, we must not, we shall not violate a solemn compact with the dead.

RABBI M. THORNER,

Rabbi, Temple Beth-El, Jersey City, N. J.

"I will admit that the Irish question is not an American question on one condition, and that is that it is no longer an American question to keep our word of honor."

REV. JOHN F. RYAN,

Pastor St. Bridget's R. C. Church, Jersey City, N. J.

¶ The people of Ireland, with implicit confidence in your words, knowing that you had the constitutional right to speak for your people, in a plebiscite held in December, 1918, by a vote of more than three to one elected to live under a Republican form of government.

¶ We citizens of New Jersey mindful of Ireland's support in our struggle for independence ask that the Republic of Ireland created by the sovereign will of her people be recognized by you on behalf of the Government of the United States, so that the same principle of self-determination applied to Czecho-Slovakia, Ugo-Slavia, Poland and Finland be not denied to Ireland—since you yourself declared that the principle of self-determination applied to ALL SUBJECT PEOPLES—FRIEND OR FOE.

¶ Our sacred honor was pledged by you; the redemption of the pledge is in your hands alone, and New Jersey confidently looks to her greatest son to courageously square his deeds with his words.

The American Commission on Irish Independence, of New Jersey.

MAJOR EUGENE F. KINKEAD, State Chairman  
HON. THOMAS F. McCRAN, Vice-Chairman

HON. CHARLES P. GILLEN, Vice-Chairman  
THOMAS J. MALONEY, Esq., Treasurer  
HUGH MONTAGUE, Esq., Secretary